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POL 23-9 Libya

SECRET LIMDIS

Classification

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# Department of State

# TELEGRAM

XL Def 15 Libya-US
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Gist

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EXCISE

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Amembassy TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
Amembassy ~~BENGHAZI~~ BENGAZI IMMEDIATE
Amembassy BAIDA IMMEDIATE

INFO: Amembassy LONDON
CINCEUR
CINCUSAFE

STATE/DEFENSE

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE [illegible]
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON LIBYAN COUP

1. Our relationship with new regime: On basis information now available, we must assume new regime is in substantial control of country. Utmost ~~xxx~~ prudence in our dealings with new leadership is therefore necessary if we are to avoid difficulties at outset. You may as necessary therefore maintain informal contacts with new leaders in context protection U.S. interests but should do nothing that would imply recognition. We will not consider recognitition until we are sure new regime is firmly implanted.

2. Relation with Old Regime: With respect ~~x~~ to officials loyal to King Idris, both in Libya and abroad, we intend maintain posture of prudent ~~x~~ non-involvement. While we may have discreet "listening" contacts with those abroad who wish to see us, neither we nor British

| DRAFTED BY: | DRAFTING DATE | TEL. EXT. | APPROVED BY: |
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DOD/JCS:~~BGen~~ Gen. Shanahan

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FORM FS-413
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consider US-UK intervention in existing circumstances feasible or desirable. Given long-existing ties between UK and Libyan monarchy, we would look to British to maintain such channels as appropriate with King himself.

3. Wheelus Base: Our continued tenure at Wheelus Base could well depend on suffrance of new regime. Therefore we should do nothing that would provide new leaders with pretext to disavow existing base agreement or make demands on us that would limit usefulness of base. Accordingly, if new leadership demands access to base, or wishes assert control over RLAF, we have no alternative but to comply.

[redacted] Overriding consideration for U.S. must be to avoid making Wheelus political target for new regime.

5. None of foregoing of course intended to interfere with responsibility of Embassy or CO Wheelus for safeguard of American lives.

6. We would welcome your comments if you question any of foregoing.

END

ROGERS